

AWARD RECIPIENT STATEMENTS

FAEGRE BAKER DANIELS

Faegre Baker Daniels is honored to receive the American Bar Association's 2019 Pro Bono Publico Award. Service to our communities is a core value of the firm. We recognize that the civil justice crisis requires us to focus our resources to provide critical legal help to those who need it most. We are particularly pleased to be recognized for our service to low-income individuals and families, which is the core of our pro bono practice.

Our pro bono housing practice in Minneapolis exemplifies our approach to pro bono service. For nearly 25 years, FaegreBD lawyers, paralegals and other staff have served pro bono clients in the Twin Cities at every point on the continuum—including regular service at weekly legal advice clinics, individual case representation and impact litigation and policy work. Our volunteers have pursued litigation to repair buildings and hold slumlords responsible for deliberately ignoring tenant rights and safety; assisted mobile home park residents facing displacement due to redevelopment; represented hundreds of individual tenants in housing matters; counseled thousands of clients at housing court-based legal advice clinics and Project Homeless Connect events; and led policy and other strategic

efforts to improve the system. With these efforts, we hope not only to help individuals, but also to strengthen our Minneapolis community.

While housing is a priority in Minneapolis, we tailor our firmwide pro bono efforts to meet the unique needs in each of our communities. Beyond housing, we provide significant legal assistance in areas such as asylum and immigration; veterans; domestic violence; intellectual property and transactional assistance for low-income entrepreneurs and community businesses; guardianship; end-of-life planning; civil and human rights; and expungement, reentry and other “second chances” work.

In all areas, we seek to make a long-term impact by assisting across the service continuum—including brief advice clinics, individual representation and multi-year systemic reform efforts. We support more than 25 community and court-based clinics, many of them weekly and in underserved communities, including rural areas. Each year, we represent hundreds of individual clients in matters critical to their safety, health and well-being. We also counsel nonprofits that serve low-income individuals, and we help clients pursue justice through appeals.

While individual representation is important, we also seek systemic reform through multi-year, high-impact litigation and policy reform initiatives. For example, we are engaged in a longstanding effort to fight partisan gerrymandering and brought class action litigation seeking to reform the foster care system in Hennepin County, Minnesota.

In addition to direct pro bono legal services, we help advance access to justice by partnering with nonprofits, the courts, corporate clients and other stakeholders to reduce barriers to solve persistent problems. We are active on access to justice commissions, lead efforts to develop new and innovative projects and strive to continually increase the impact of our pro bono service.

To the many nonprofit organizations with which we collaborate: we extend our sincerest thanks for your tireless work and excellent partnership. Special thanks to Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid for nominating Faegre Baker Daniels for this award; to Volunteer Lawyers Network, the McKnight Foundation and our clients at United Renters for Justice for supporting the nomination; and to the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono & Public Service for recognizing our pro bono service.

To all of our pro bono clients: thank you for trusting us to work with you to address difficult life situations and important civil and human rights issues. We are better lawyers and people because of our work together.